

January 1, 1742-3.

# PROPOSALS

For ERECTING an

## AMPHITHEATRE

For the Manly Exercise of

## BOXING.

By JOHN BROUGHTON, *Professor of Athletics.*

*Multa Viri nequicquam inter se vulnera jactant :  
Multa cavo lateri ingeminant & pectore vastos  
Dant sonitus, erratque aures & tempora circum  
Crebra manus ; duro crepitant sub vulnere malæ.*

VIRGIL.



ATHLETICS have ever been encourag'd in those Countries where Strength and Valour have been the Characteristicks of the Inhabitants, at *Greece*, particularly among the *Spartans*, the most Heroic of that People, and at *Rome* these Exercises were held in such high Estimation, that even *Princes* and *Nobles* have not disdain'd to enter the List as Competitors. BRITONS then who boast themselves Inheritors of the *Greek* and *Roman* Virtues, should follow their Example, and by encouraging Conflicts of this magnanimous Kind, endeavour to eradicate that *foreign Effeminacy* which has so fatally insinuated itself among us, and almost destroy'd that glorious Spirit of *British Championism*, which was wont to be at once the *Terror* and *Disgrace* of our Enemies.

While

While Authority serves to recommend this Practice, Reason likewise convinces us of its Usefulness, for as Exercise is the Nurse of Strength and Activity, and these are the natural Perfections of the Body, what can be more Rational than Encounters which manifestly tend to this End? Especially when the Promotion of them may conduce to the *public Utility* as well as *private Recreation*; for if the Prowess of the People is the natural Bulwark of a Country, the Encouragement of this Quality will excite every one to an Emulation and Improvement of it; and as Experience convinces us that Foreigners tremble less at the *Firelock* than the *Fist* of a *Briton*, we may by a laudable Incitement of this Species of natural Fortitude, become as formidable to other Nations, as the Poet describes *Entellus* to have been to his Antagonist, when he says,

*Nunc dextra ingeminans ictus, nunc ille sinistra;  
Nec mora, nec requies, quam multa grandine nimbi  
Culminibus crepitant: Sic densis ictibus Heros  
Creber utraque manu pulsatur, versatque Dareta.*

and what Enemy would dare the Vengeance of an Arm that must reduce him to the melancholy Condition of

-----*genua ægra trahentem,  
Factantemque utroque caput, crassumque cruorem  
Ore ejectionem, mistosque in sanguine dentes.*

THE principal Reasons that have occasioned the Decay of *British* Championism, it is apprehended are

The Want of a convenient and elegant Place for the Exhibition of these Ceremonies

The present Indiscrimination there between Persons of the first Rank and Condition, and those of the meaner and lowest Class.

The exorbitant Charge of an Amphitheatre.

The great Imposition on the Spectators by those who, merely for Lucre's Sake enter the Lists, tho' entirely unqualified for such arduous Conflicts.

The Want of a Manager well skill'd in the Direction of such Solemnities.

To



To Remedy all which the Undertaker proposes

- I. To erect in some Place, most commodious for this Metropolis, a *magnificent Amphitheatre*, to be dedicated to the Exercise of that Manly *Art of Boxing*.
- II. That this Building shall be so contriv'd as entirely to prevent the Gentry's being incommoded by the Populace; and as Servants will be admitted to keep Places, the Inconvenience of Attendance or Disappointment will be avoided.
- III. That the Consideration to be paid by the Champions for the Use of the Amphitheatre, shall be determin'd either by Agreement between the Parties, or left to the Decision of the Gentlemen present.
- IV. That the Public may not be imposed on by any *fictitious* or *unequal* Battles, none shall be permitted the Benefit of a House but those who have signalized themselves to the Satisfaction of the Spectators, or are notoriously famous for their Bravery and Skill in this noble Art; nor will the Undertaker spare any Pains in procuring such from all Parts of this Kingdom, and *farther* he apprehends all Search would be *useless*.
- V. That it is with the utmost Deference the Undertaker proposes himself as *Manager* of these Solemnities; and as he has been so long conversant therein, and hitherto remain'd invincible, he humbly hopes he shall be esteem'd properly qualified for that important Office, more especially as the Preservation of *Decency* and *Decorum* at such Ceremonies requires a *manual Authority* in the Person who presides.

As an Affair of this Nature must unavoidably be attended with a very large Expence, the Undertaker hopes to be assisted in it by the *generous Contributions* of those Noblemen and Gentlemen who are Lovers and Encouragers of this heroic Art; and, in Return of their Favours, assures them no Diligence shall be wanting, on his part, in the Propagation of the Science, the Oeconomy of its Exhibitions, and the Support of that Dignity which is suitable to an Undertaking of such *noble* and *national* Importance.

Mr.

Mr. B R O U G H T O N proposes, with proper *Assistants*, to open an Academy, at his Amphitheatre, for the Instruction of those who are willing to be initiated in the *Mystery* of Boxing; where the whole *Theory* and *Practice* of that truly *British* Art, with all the various *Stops*, *Blows*, *Cross-Buttocks*, &c. incident to Combatants, will be fully taught and explain'd ---- And that Persons of *Quality* and *Distinction* may not be deterr'd from entering into a *Course* of these *Lectures*, they will be given with the utmost *Tendernefs* and *Regard* to the *Delicacy* of the *Frame* and *Constitution* of the *Pupil*; for which Reason, *Mufflers* are provided that will effectually secure them from the Inconveniency of *black Eyes*, *broken Jaws*, and *bloody Noses*.

N. B. *Any Gentleman may have a private Course of Lectures at his own House, and those who honour Mr. B R O U G H T O N with their Contribution towards his Amphitheatre will be admitted to the Public Ones gratis.*



